



## Phytochemical Analysis and Assessment of Nutrients present in edible parts of *Colocasia esculenta*

• Udita Choudhury • Shweta Singh • Shradha Singh  
• Urvashi Sinha

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Corresponding Author : Urvashi Sinha

**Abstract :** *Colocasia esculenta* is a very common herbaceous plant belonging to family Araceae, used mainly as staple food plant in most of the countries worldwide. This plant is acclaimed as a rich source of nutrition and has medicinal importance also. The present study is conducted to phytochemically analyze and assess the primary nutritional elements present in different edible parts of *Colocasia*. Fresh parts of the plant, tuber, leaf and stem are dried and their crude extract is prepared separately. Primary metabolites like

protein, fat, and carbohydrate is detected and their presence is estimated by using different tools and standard techniques. Photochemical screening of primary metabolites shows that leaves are the most nutritive part of the plant. Results from this study indicate that the leaves and tuber of *Colocasia esculenta* can serve as a good nutritional source in combating malnutrition.

**Keywords:** *Colocasia esculenta*, phytochemical screening, primary metabolites.

### Udita Choudhury

B.Sc. III year, Botany (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,  
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,  
Bihar, India

### Shweta Singh

B.Sc. III year, Botany (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,  
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,  
Bihar, India

### Shradha Singh

B.Sc. III year, Botany (Hons.), Session: 2010-2013,  
Patna Women's College, Patna University, Patna,  
Bihar, India

### Urvashi Sinha

Assistant Professor, Deptt. of Botany,  
Patna Women's College, Bailey Road,  
Patna-800 001, Bihar, India  
E-mail :

### Introduction :

*Colocasia esculenta* is a herbaceous perennial plant. It belongs to family Araceae (Gills, 1998). It is known by several names such as Amadumbe (South Africa), Taro (Pacific Islands), Cocoyam (West Africa) Kachu or Arvi in India. *Colocasia esculenta* originated from Southeast Asia and is reported to be one of the first crops cultivated by man. (Coursy, 1968; Onwueme, 1978; Morren and Hyndman, 1987; Bown, 1988). The edible part of the plant is its tuber and which is considered to be rich source of starch, protein and vitamins. The edible tubers of *Colocasia* are the traditional starch staple of many tropical areas. The